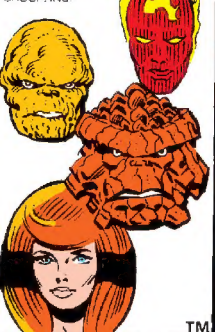


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AUTHORITY

THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMIC MAGAZINE

Fantastic Four

INFERNO
CONTINUES

GUEST-Featuring:
**THE ENIGMATIC
MANTIS!**

HE'S BACK!!
**KANG,
THE CONQUEROR!!**



"ORPHAN OF THE STORM!"

THE FABULOUS FF
FACE THE BLACK
NIGHT OF
HALLOWEEN
INSIDE THE
INFERNO--
AS STAN LEE
PRESENTS--

ORPHAN OF THE STORM!



I FEEL LIKE A
ROOKIE COP,
BEN-- OUT
POUNDING
A BEAT!

WE COULDN'T
JUST SIT AROUND
FF PLAZA,
JOHNNY! GETTING
OUT, DEALING
WITH THE MENACES
AS WE FIND
THEM--

--LETTING
PEOPLE KNOW
SOMEBODY'S
DOING SOME-
THING--THAT'S
WHAT WE HAVE
TO DO!

WE'LL WALK
ALL NIGHT
IF NECES-
SARY!

EASY FOR
YOU TWO
TO SAY!

THE WEIRDNESS
IS GETTIN' WORSE BY
THE HOUR, TORCHIE!

AN' EVEN WITH
EV'RY OTHER
SUPER-GUY IN
MANHATTAN ON THE
CASE, NOTHIN'S
STOPPIN' IT!

STEVE ENGLEHART
STORY

KEITH POLLARD
PENCILS

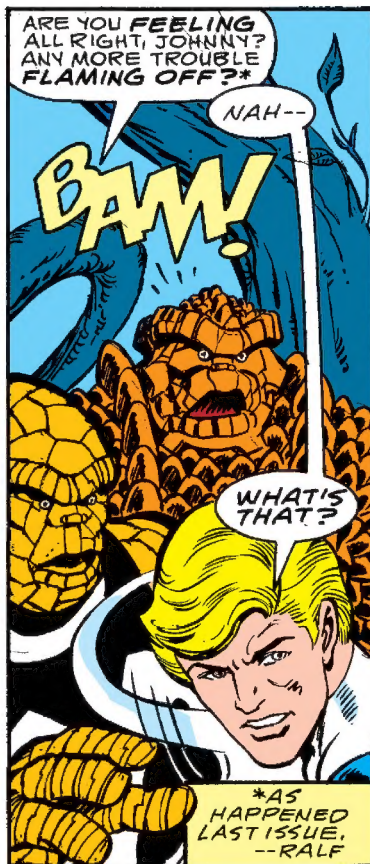
ROMEO TANGHAL
INKS

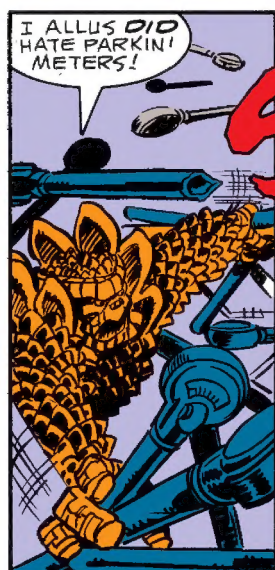
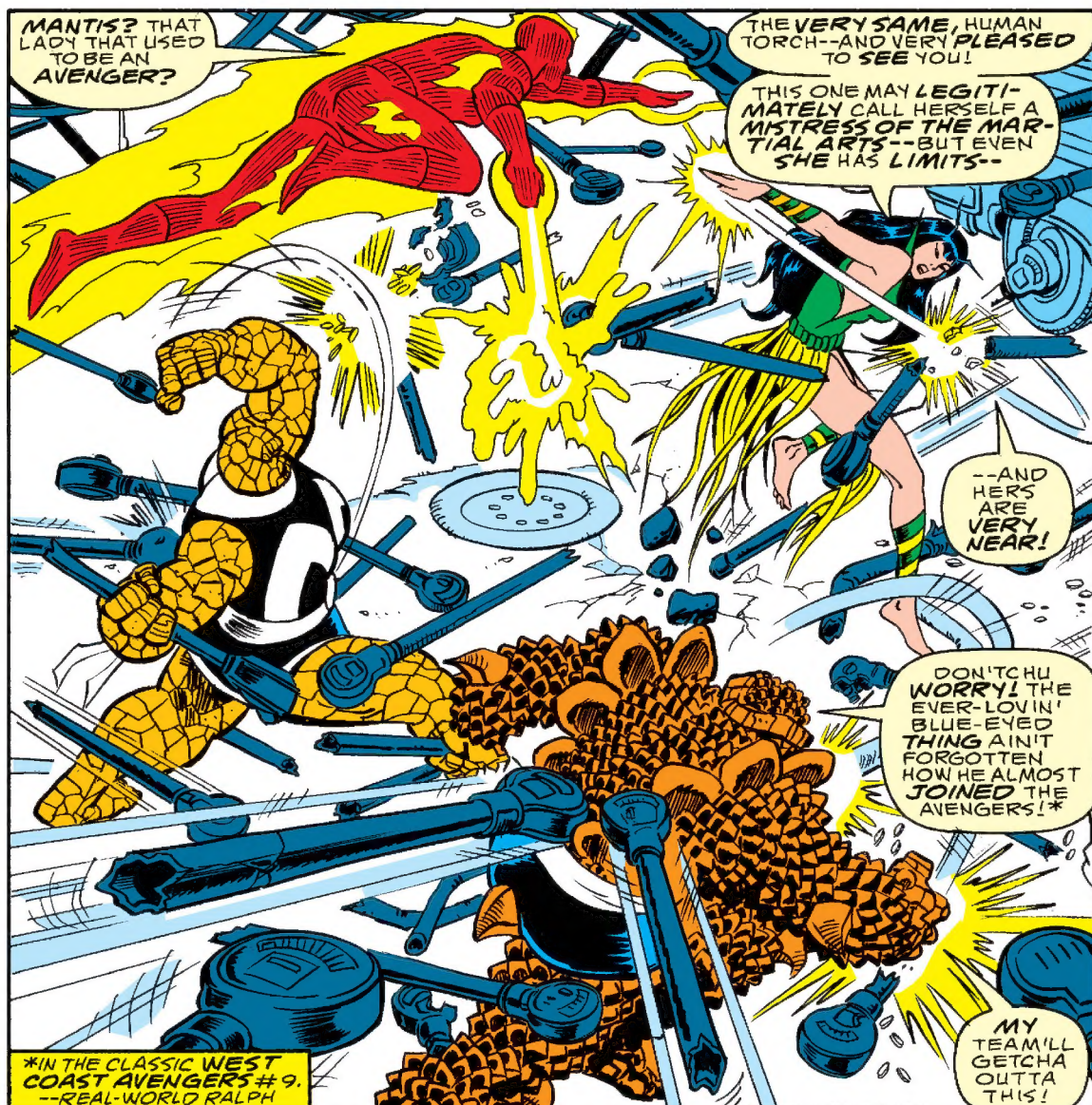
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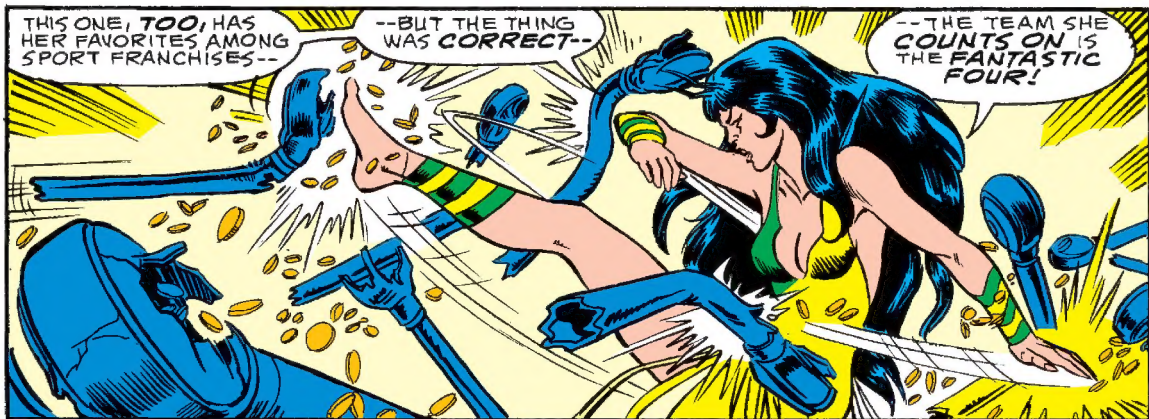
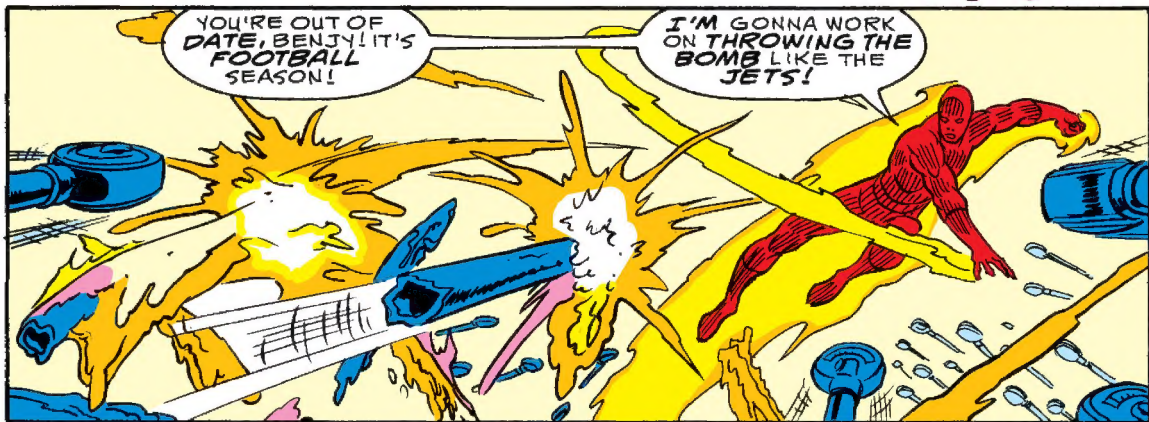
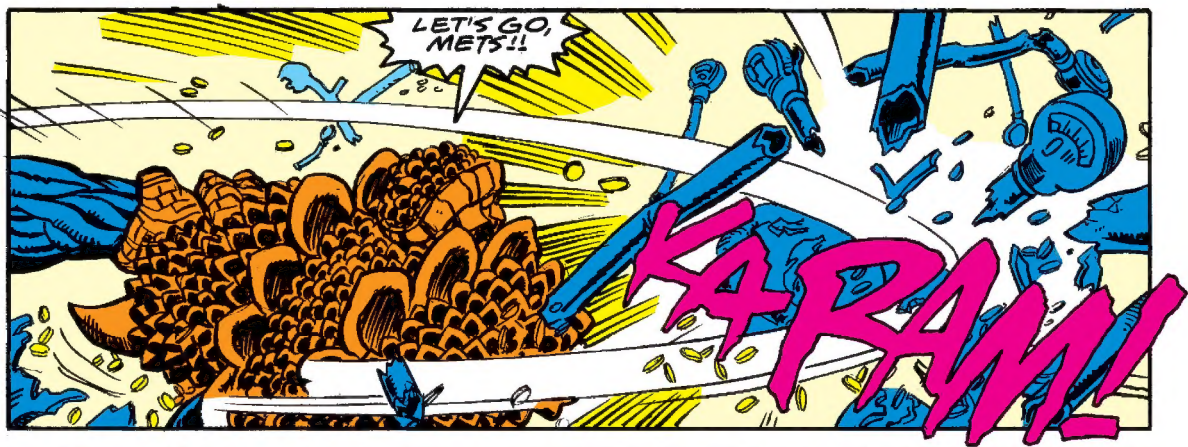
TOM DEFALCO
EDITOR IN CHIEF

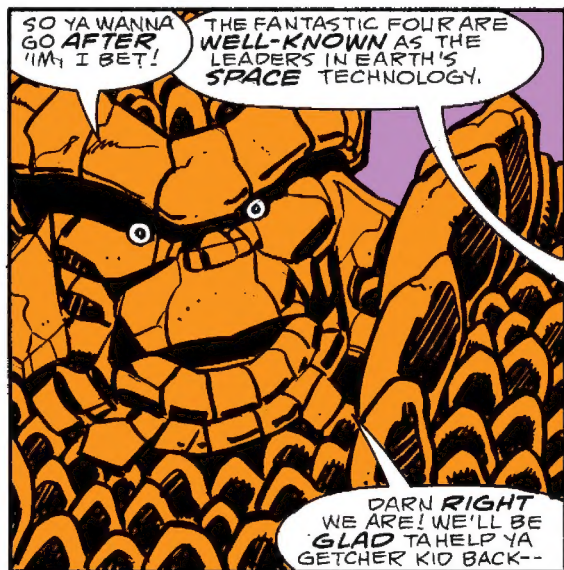


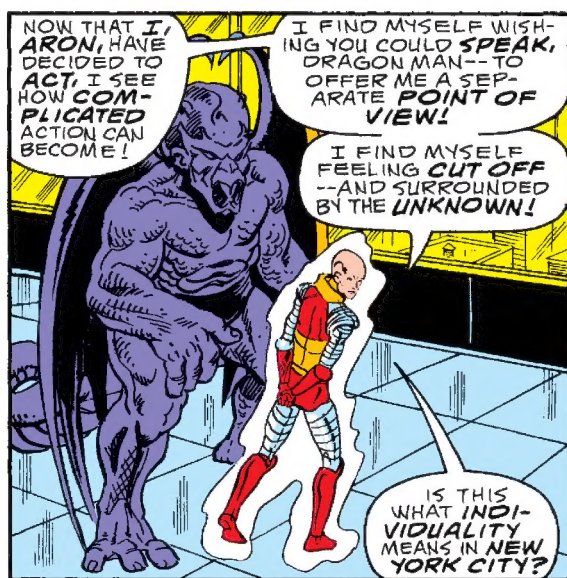
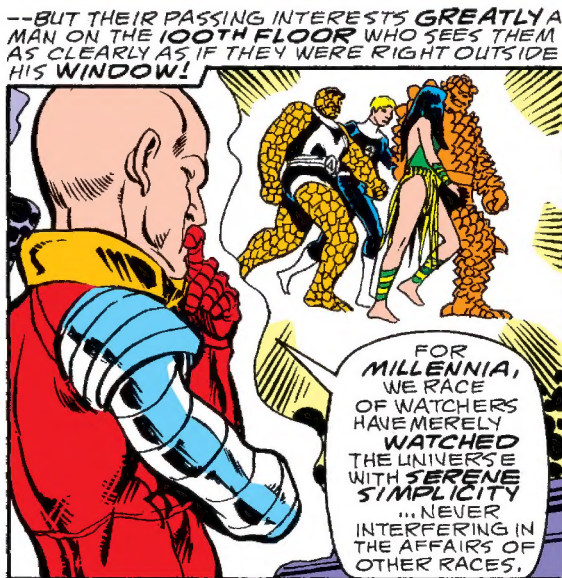
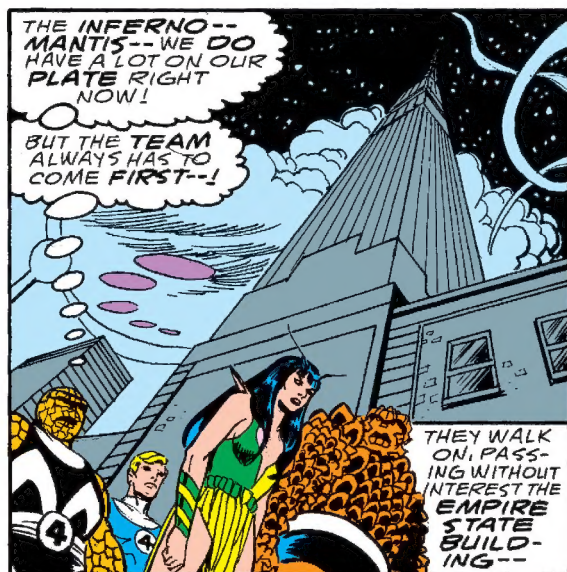
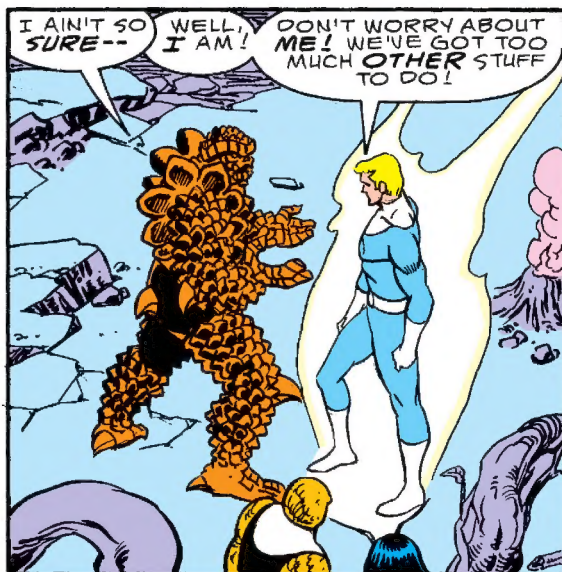
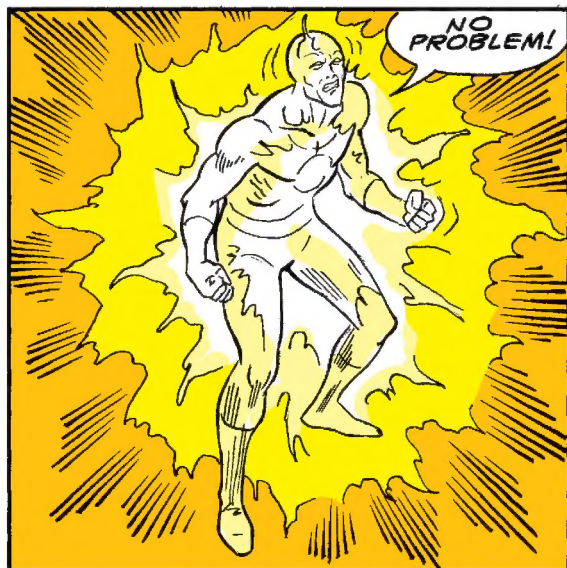
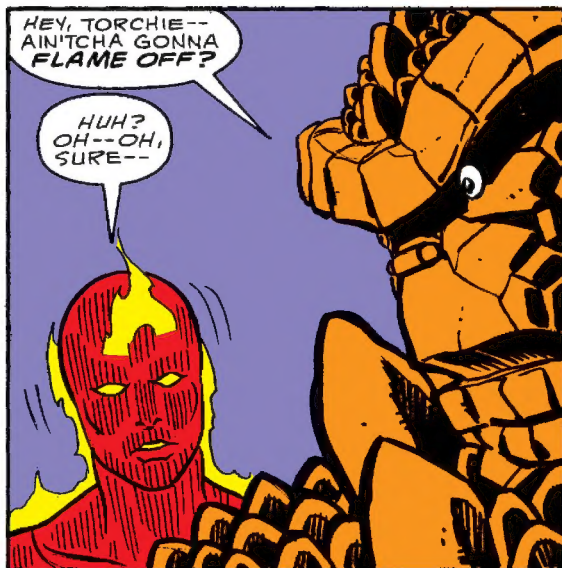


SMASH!







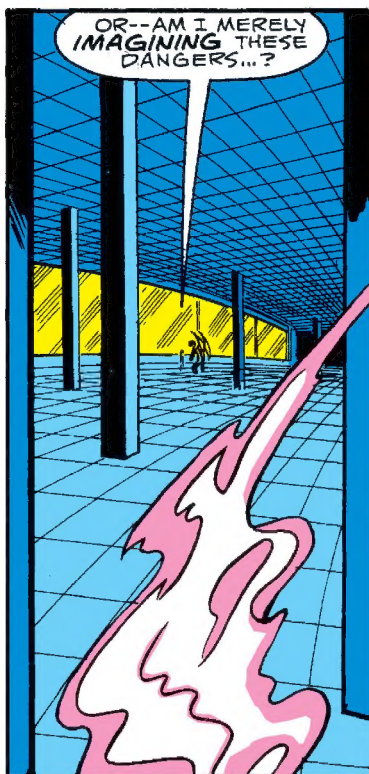




BY THE STANDARDS BRED INTO ME, I AM A **WON-
DROUS BEING**, BUT SINCE
DESCENDING INTO THIS
VICIOUS AND **FINITE**
MILIEU I HAVE BEEN
BUFFETED BY SUCH UNEX-
PECTED **EVILS**--!

MORE AND MORE,
I FEAR FOR MY
VERY **SOUL**!

WOULD A
MORTAL
MAN KNOW
WHAT TO
DO NOW--?

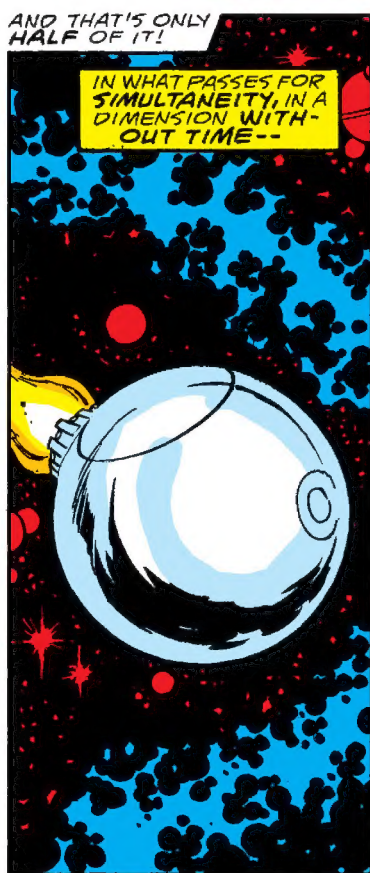


OR--AM I MERELY
IMAGINING THESE
DANGERS...?

IN THE FAR CORNER OF THE
MAMMOTH CHAMBER...SOME-
THING AS FORMLESS AS THE
WATCHER'S FEARS...

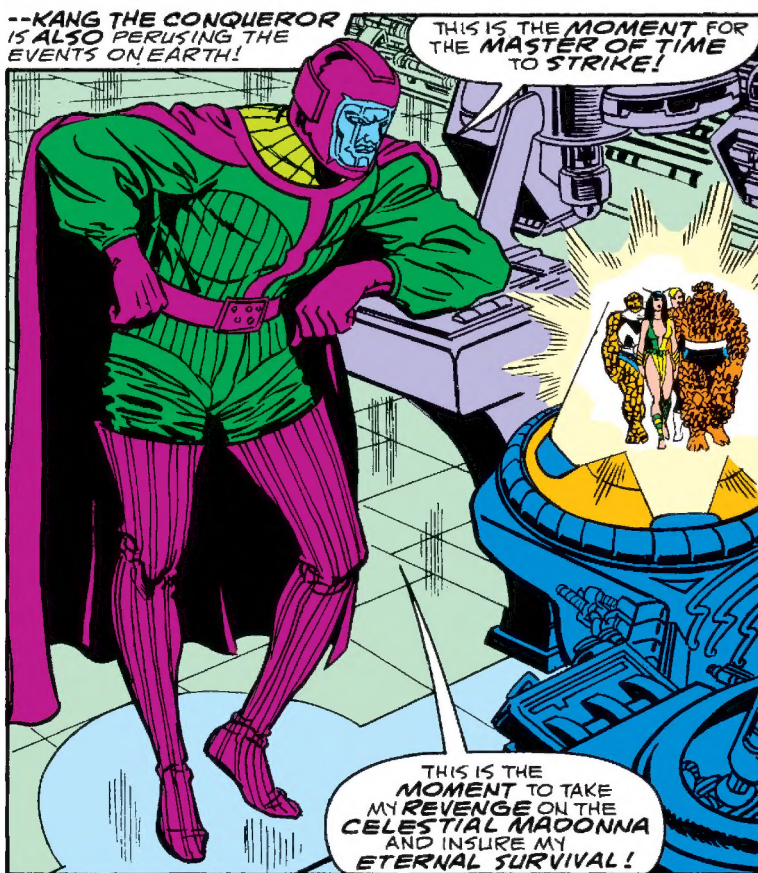


...LEERS!



AND THAT'S ONLY
HALF OF IT!

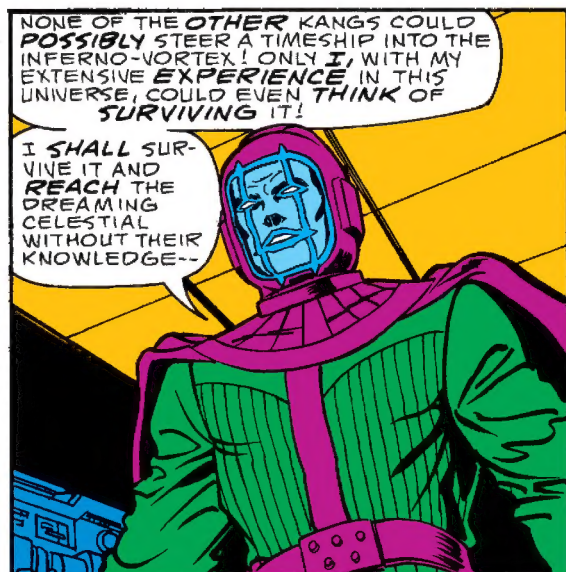
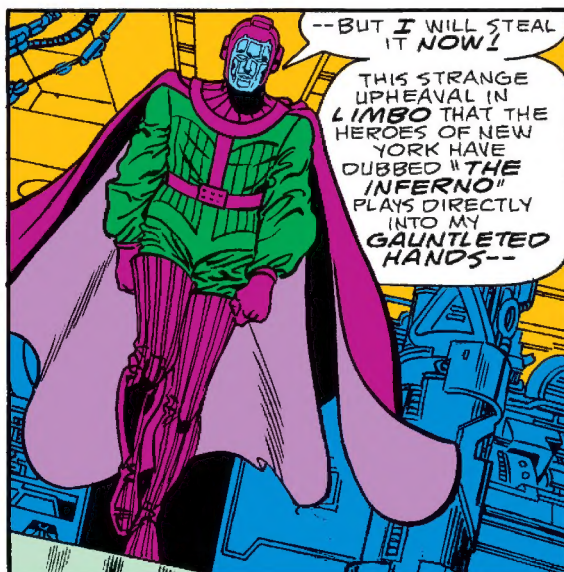
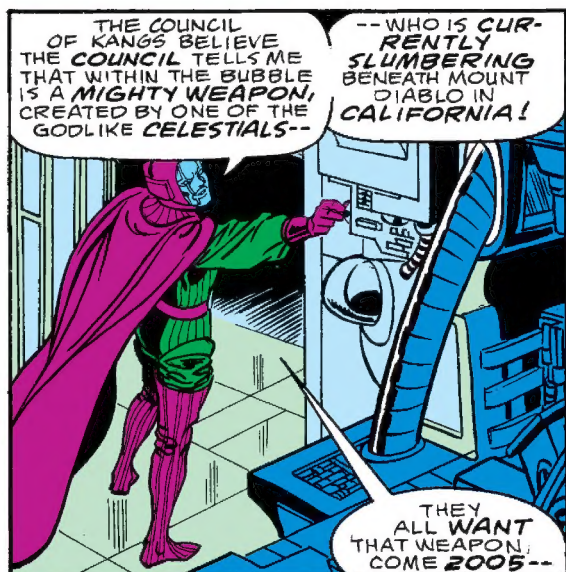
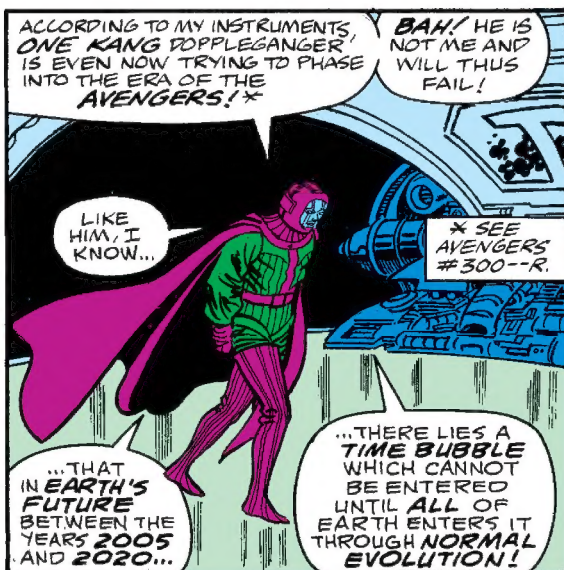
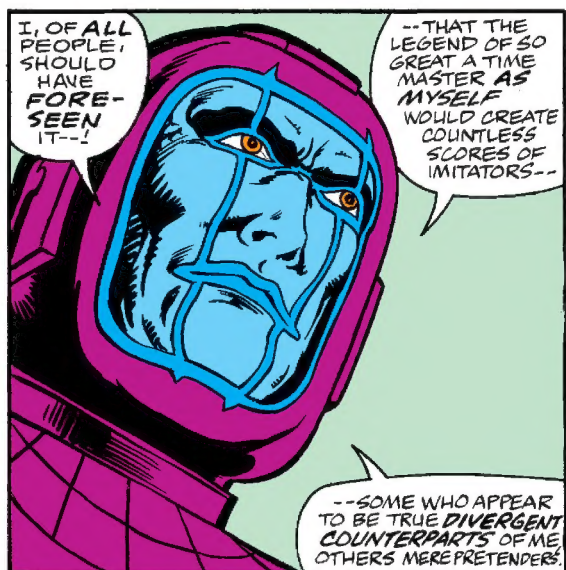
IN WHAT PASSES FOR
SIMULTANEITY, IN A
DIMENSION WITH-
OUT TIME--



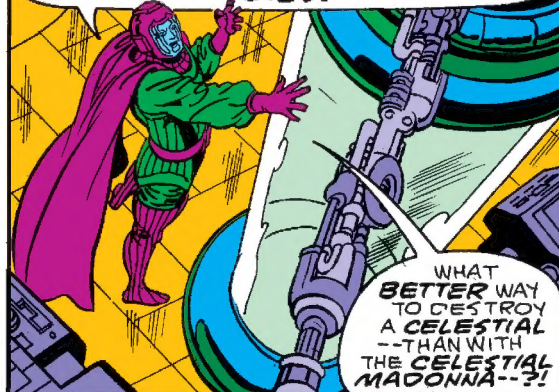
--KANG THE CONQUEROR
IS ALSO PERUSING THE
EVENTS ON EARTH!

THIS IS THE MOMENT FOR
THE MASTER OF TIME
TO STRIKE!

THIS IS THE
MOMENT TO TAKE
MY REVENGE ON THE
CELESTIAL MADONNA
AND INSURE MY
ETERNAL SURVIVAL!

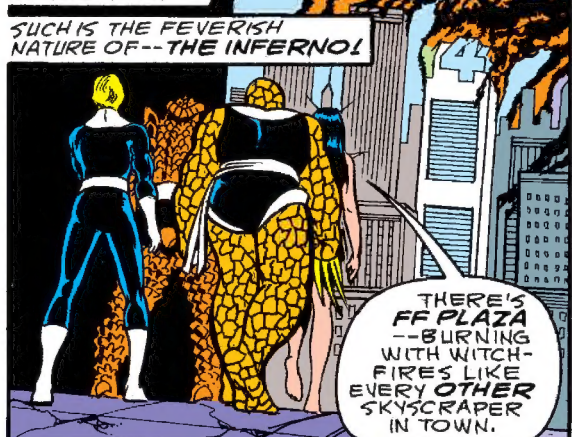


IT WILL BE HER **ALIEN POWERS**, DRAINED FROM HER UNWILLING FORM BY MY **ENERGI-TUBE**, WHICH DEFEAT THE CREATURE BE- NEATH THE **MOUNTAIN**--EVEN AS SHE **DIES!**



WHAT **BETTER** WAY TO DESTROY A **CELESTIAL**--THAN WITH THE **CELESTIAL MADONNA**--?!

WELL, AS ARON THE **WATCHER** SAID, EVERY ACTION SEEMS **LINEXPECTEDLY COMPLI-CATED** NOW--!



SUCH IS THE **FEVERISH** NATURE OF--THE **INFERNO!**

THERE'S **FF PLAZA**--BURNING WITH **WITCH-FIRES** LIKE EVERY OTHER **SKYSCRAPER** IN TOWN.

SO YOU AIN'T THE **CELESTIAL MADONNA** NO MORE--!

NO, BEN! NO...

WHAT EXACTLY WAS THAT, MAN-TIS?



A WOMAN CHOSEN TO REPRESENT **EARTH'S HUMANITY**, Ms. MARVEL--

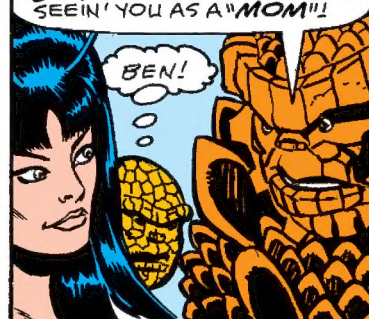
--WHO JOINED WITH THE HIGHEST REPRESENTATIVE OF AN **INTELLIGENT RACE OF PLANTS** TO CREATE A **NEW FORM OF LIFE**--

--A LIFE WHICH WOULD LEAD **BOTH SPECIES** INTO THE **FUTURE!**

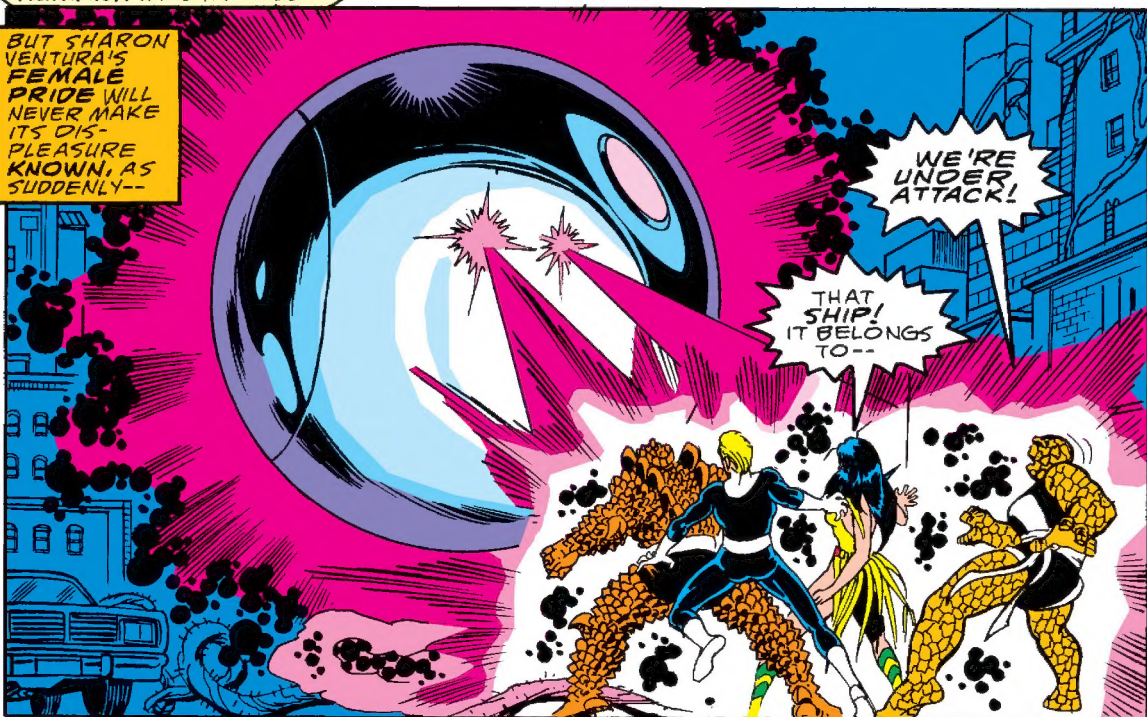


THEY CAN STRIP YA OF SOME **POWERS**, LADY, BUT ONCE YA HAD THE **KID**, YA'LL ALWAYS BE A **MADONNA!**

THOUGH ANY **RED-BLOODED AMERICAN BOY**D HAVE A HARD TIME SEEIN' YOU AS A **MOM!**

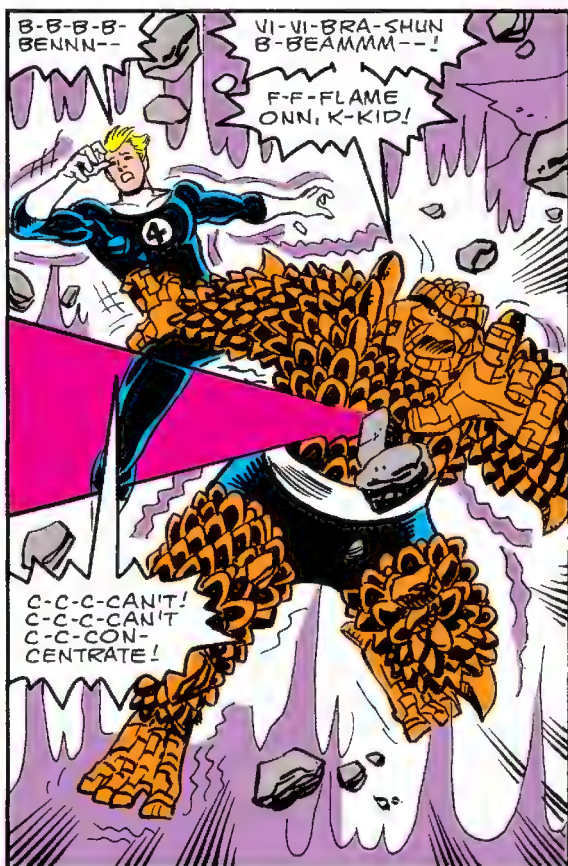
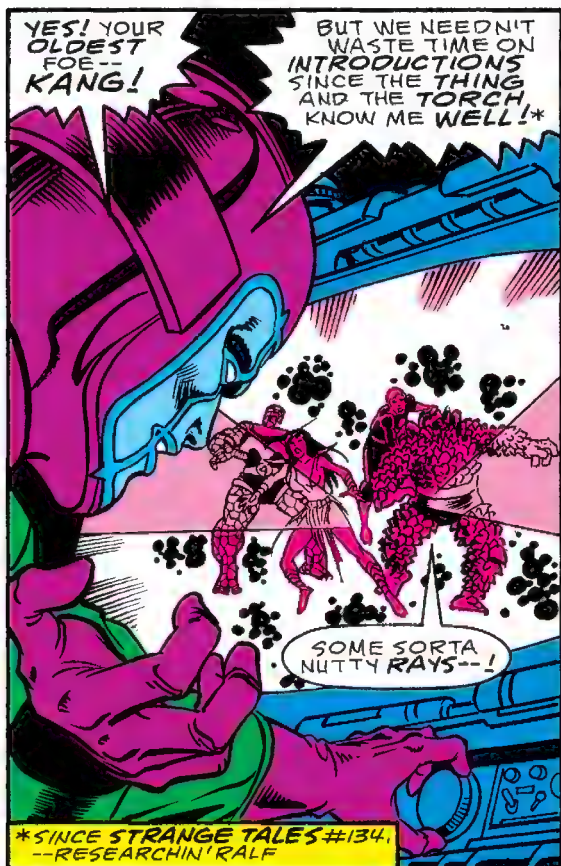


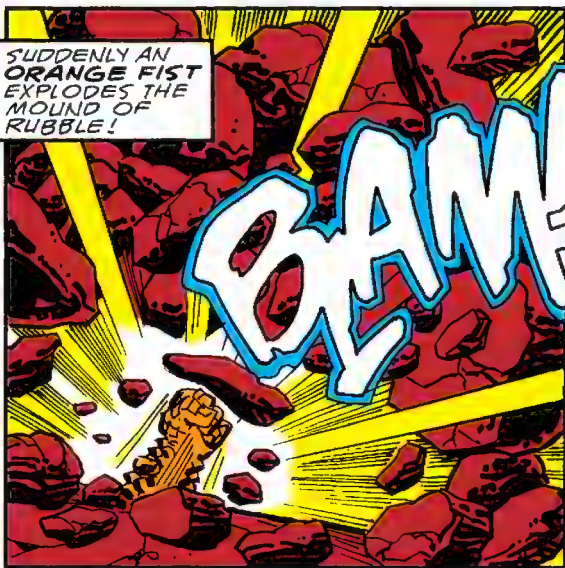
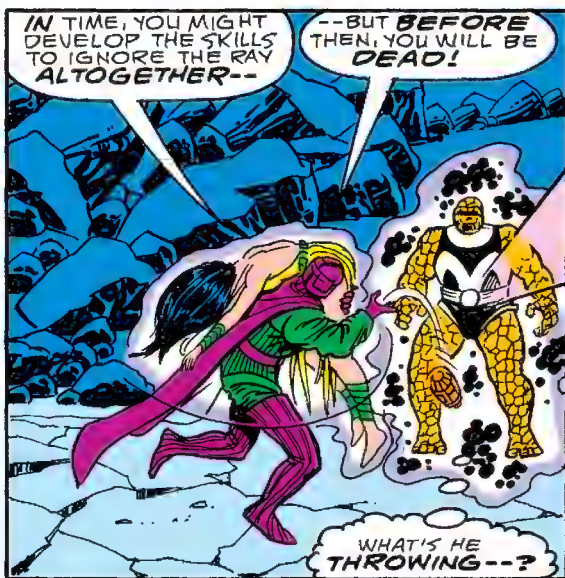
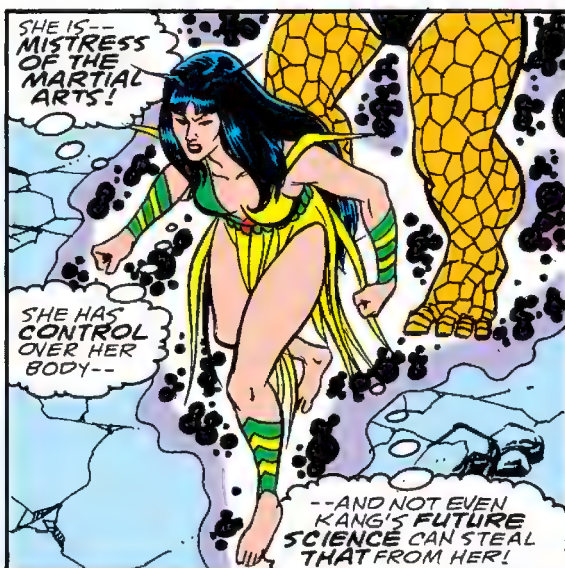
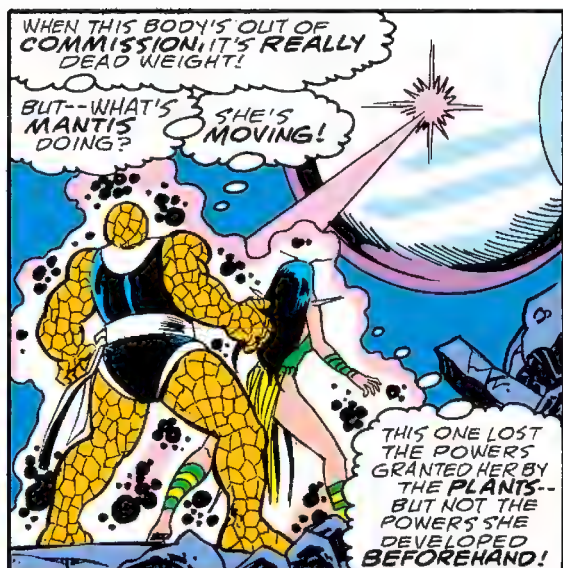
BUT SHARON VENTURA'S **FEMALE PRIDE** WILL NEVER MAKE ITS **DIS- PLEASURE KNOWN**, AS **SUDDENLY--**

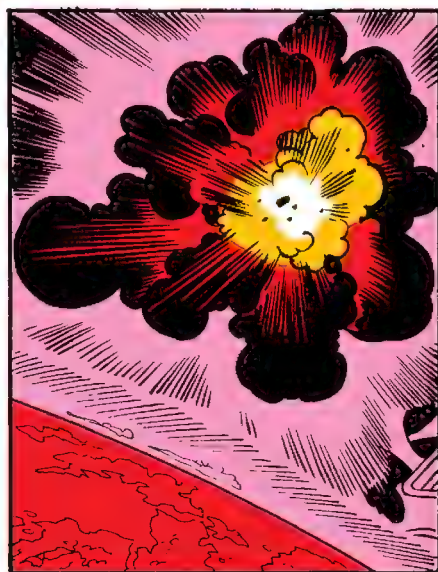
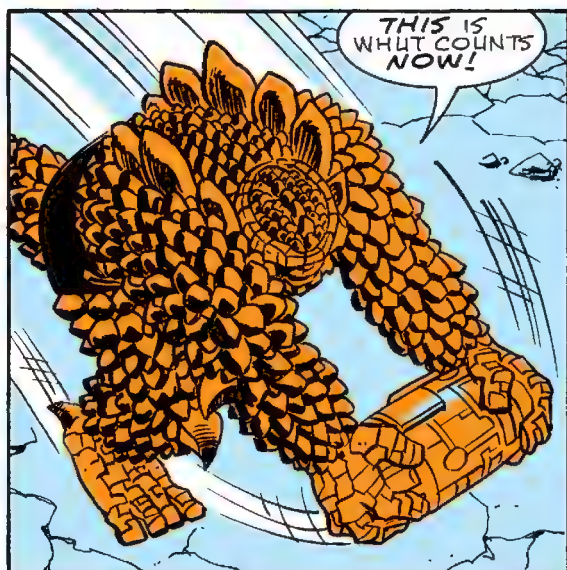
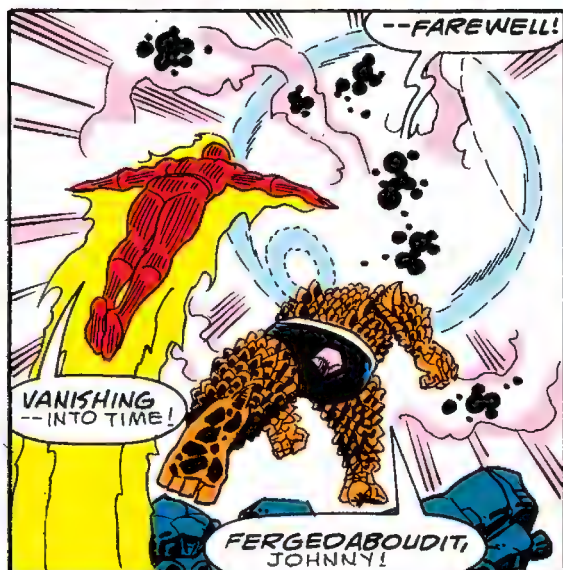
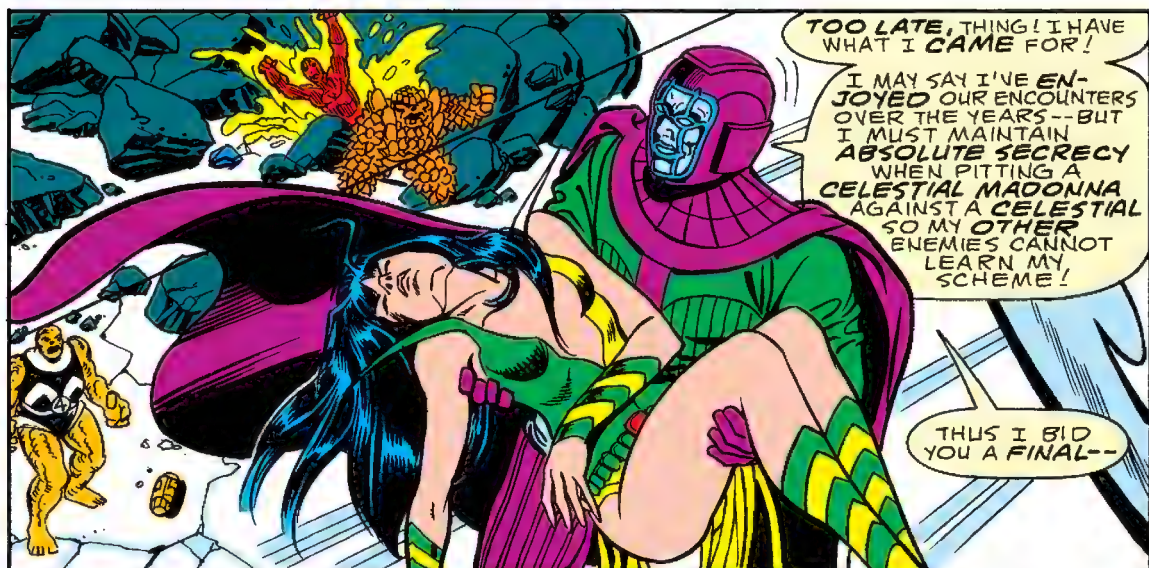


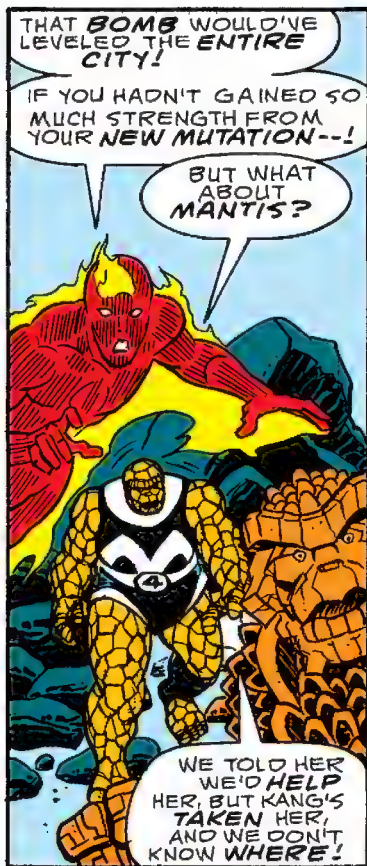
WE'RE **UNDER ATTACK!**

THAT **SHIP!** IT BELONGS TO--









THAT **BOMB** WOULD'VE
LEVELED THE **ENTIRE**
CITY!

IF YOU HADN'T GAINED SO
MUCH STRENGTH FROM
YOUR **NEW MUTATION--!**

BUT WHAT
ABOUT
MANTIS?

WE TOLD HER
WE'D **HELP**
HER, BUT **KANG'S**
TAKEN HER,
AND WE **DOON'T**
KNOW **WHERE!**



MAYBE WE **DO**, SHARY! HE
TALKED ABOUT A **CELES-**
TIAL, AND I REMEMBER
THE **AVENGERS** FOUND
ONE O' THEM UNDER SOME
MOUNTAIN IN
CALIFORNIA!

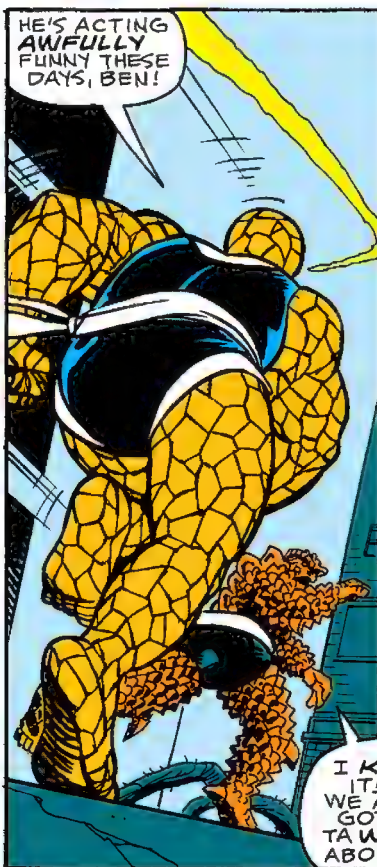
WE CAN LOOK IT UP ON
THE **FANTASTI-CAR'S**
COMPUTER WHILE WE'RE
FLYIN' OUT THERE!

ALL
RIGHT!



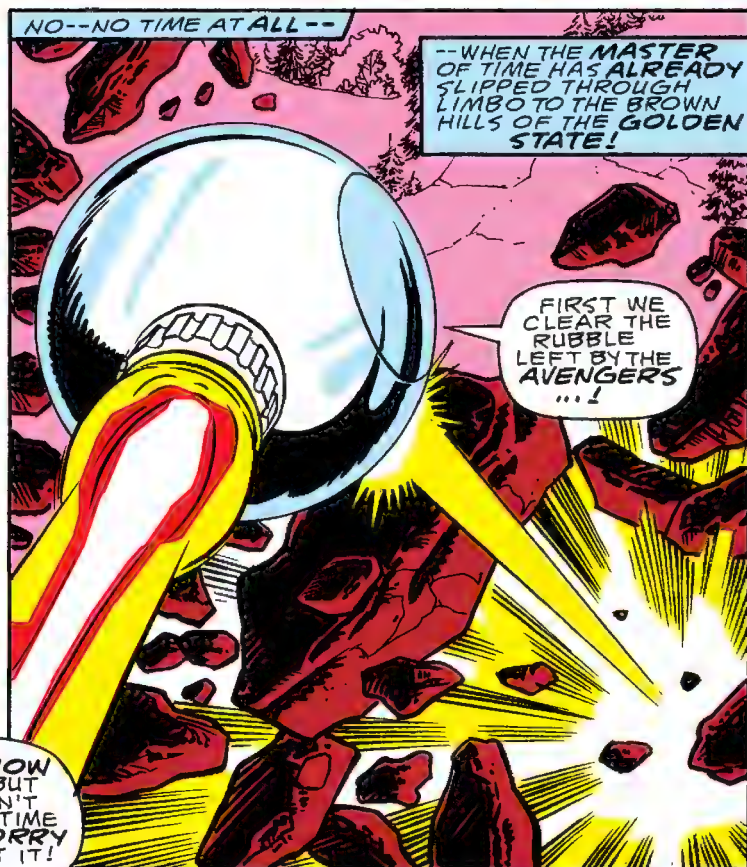
I'LL MEET
YOU THERE!

HUH?



HE'S ACTING
AWFULLY
FUNNY THESE
DAYS, **BEN!**

I KNOW
IT! BUT
WE AIN'T
GOT TIME
TA WORRY
ABOUT IT!



NO--NO TIME AT ALL--

--WHEN THE **MASTER**
OF **TIME** HAS **ALREADY**
SLIPPED THROUGH
LIMBO TO THE **BROWN**
HILLS OF THE **GOLDEN**
STATE!

FIRST WE
CLEAR THE
RUBBLE
LEFT BY THE
AVENGERS
...!



BUT WHAT IS THIS--? MY TIME--SHIP'S POWER IS RECEIVING ALMOST NO AUGMENTATION FROM YOU, MADONNA!

NO, KANG--FOR THE POWERS BEQUEATHED THIS ONE BY THE PLANTS ARE GONE!

YOU MAY BELIEVE THAT SHE FINDS NO MORE JOY IN THAT FACT THAN YOU, BUT BEING UNABLE TO HELP YOU IN YOUR EVIL--

--THAT PLEASES HER VERY MUCH!



BUT YOUR GOAL IS POWER, NOT THE ABUSE OF HELPLESS WOMEN! DO WHAT YOU WILL WITH THE ALIEN BENEATH THE EARTH, AND FREE THIS ONE!

YOU THINK ME A FOOL? REMEMBER THAT I KNEW YOU BEFORE YOU GAINED THOSE POWERS!

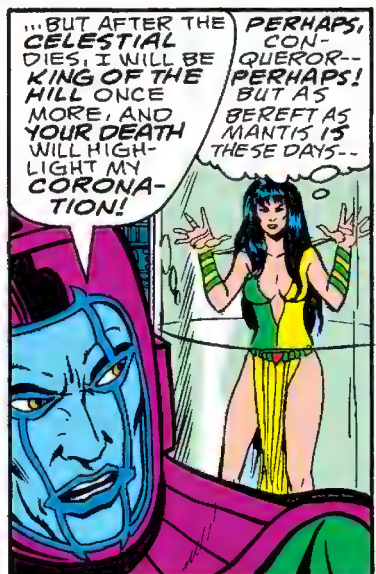
I KNOW WHAT SORT OF WOMAN YOU WERE, AND EVEN IF YOU ARE SUCH AGAIN-- YOU ARE NEVER HELPLESS!!



NO, MANTIS--I WILL KEEP YOU, WHATEVER YOUR PART IN TONIGHT'S DRAMA IS!

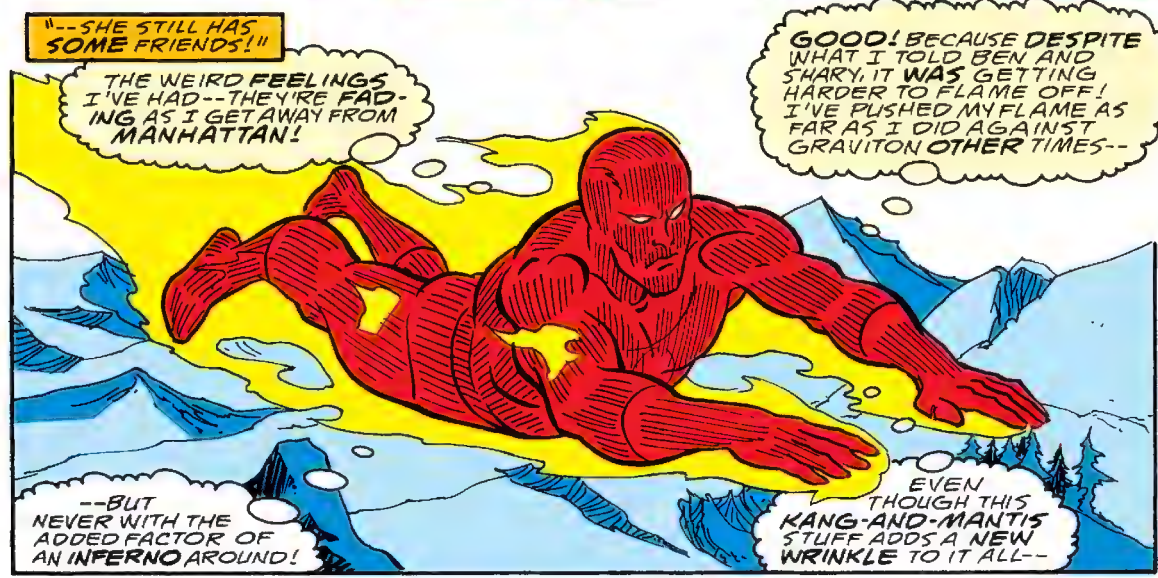
WE BOTH HAVE CHANGED IN OUR STATUS SINCE THE DAYS OF OUR FIRST ENCOUNTER-- WHEN I SOUGHT TO MARRY YOU BEFORE THE PLANT DID...!

I, IN FACT, FIND MYSELF FAR LONELIER THAN I DID THEN...



...BUT AFTER THE CELESTIAL DIES, I WILL BE KING OF THE HILL ONCE MORE, AND YOUR DEATH WILL HIGHLIGHT MY CORONATION!

PERHAPS, CONQUEROR-- PERHAPS! BUT AS BEREFT AS MANTIS IS THESE DAYS--



"--SHE STILL HAS SOME FRIENDS!!"

THE WEIRD FEELINGS I'VE HAD--THEY'RE FADING AS I GET AWAY FROM MANHATTAN!

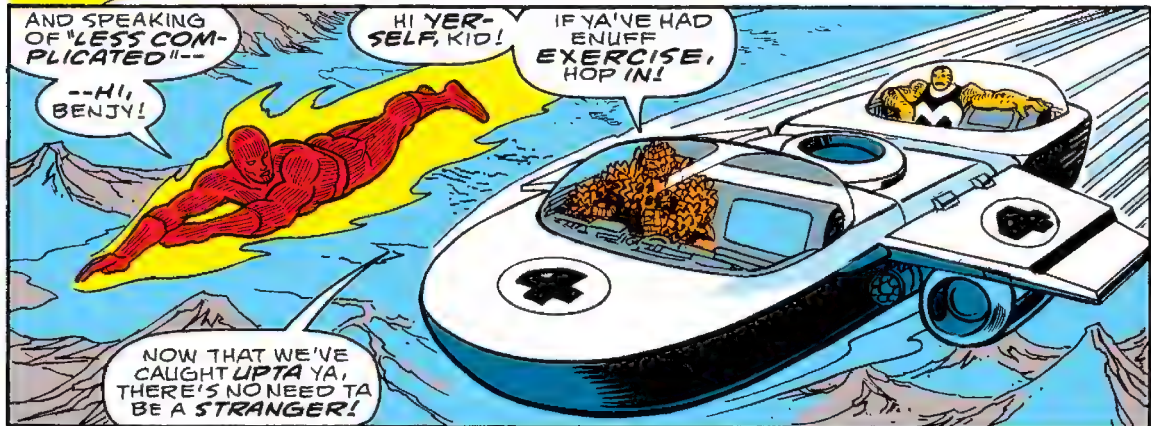
GOOD! BECAUSE DESPITE WHAT I TOLD BEN AND SHARY, IT WAS GETTING HARDER TO FLAME OFF! I'VE PUSHED MY FLAME AS FAR AS I DID AGAINST GRAVITON OTHER TIMES--

--BUT NEVER WITH THE ADDED FACTOR OF AN INFERNO AROUND!

EVEN THOUGH THIS KANG-AND-MANTIS STUFF ADDS A NEW WRINKLE TO IT ALL--



--I'M GLAD THINGS
ARE GETTING **LESS**
COMPLICATED
NOW...!



AND SPEAKING
OF "**LESS** COM-
PLICATED"--

--HI,
BENJY!

HI YER-
SELF, KID!

IF YA'VE HAD
ENUFF
EXERCISE,
HOP IN!

NOW THAT WE'VE
CAUGHT **UPTA YA**,
THERE'S NO NEED TA
BE A **STRANGER**!

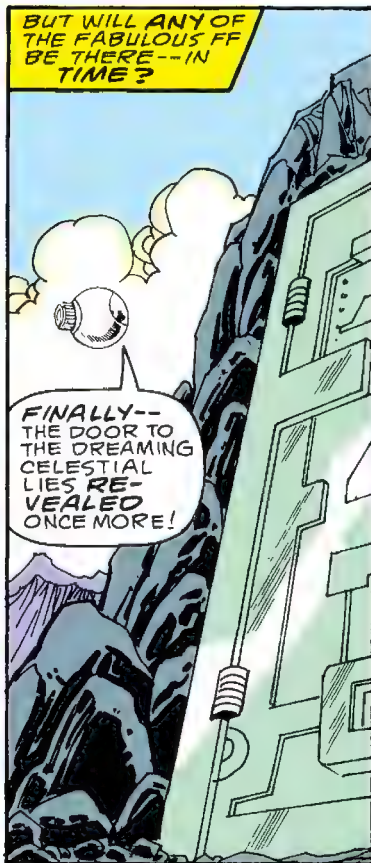


THANKS ANYWAY, BUT I'M
KINDA LIKE A **STREET**
ROD WITH A **DIRTY**
CARBURETOR, GETTING
OUT ON THE TRACK TO RUN
FULL THROTTLE
FOR A WHILE!

SAY
WHUT?

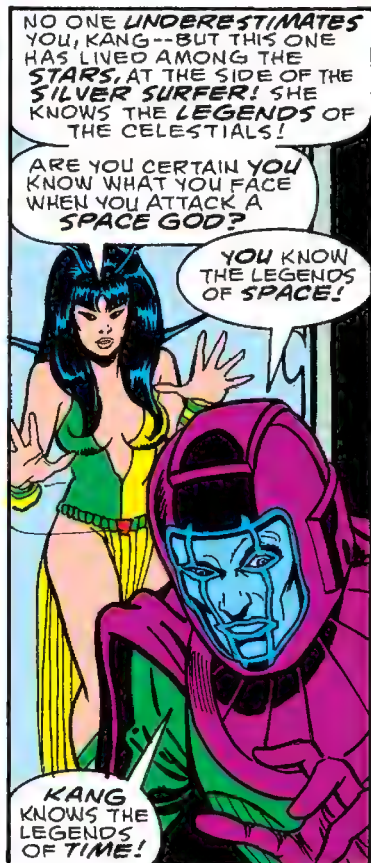
I'M **CLEAN-**
ING OUT!

YOU **HEAD**
ON! I'LL BE
THERE TO
BACK YOU
UP!



BUT WILL ANY OF
THE **FABULOUS FF**
BE THERE--IN
TIME?

FINALLY--
THE DOOR TO
THE **DREAMING**
CELESTIAL
LIES **RE-**
VEALED
ONCE MORE!

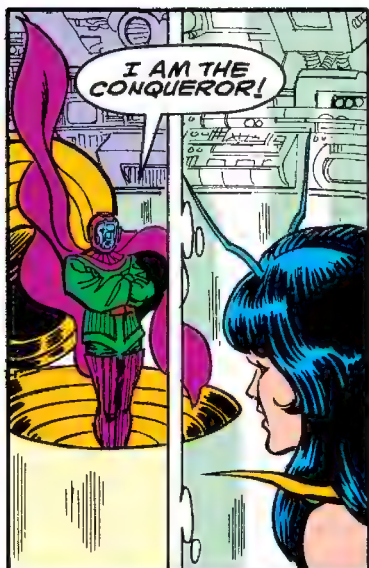


NO ONE **UNDBREESTIMATES**
YOU, **KANG**--BUT THIS ONE
HAS LIVED AMONG THE
STARS, AT THE SIDE OF THE
SILVER SURFER! SHE
KNOWS THE **LEGENDS** OF
THE **CELESTIALS**!

ARE YOU CERTAIN YOU
KNOW WHAT YOU FACE
WHEN YOU ATTACK A
SPACE GOD?

YOU KNOW
THE **LEGENDS**
OF **SPACE**!

KANG
KNOWS THE
LEGENDS
OF **TIME**!



I AM THE CONQUEROR!

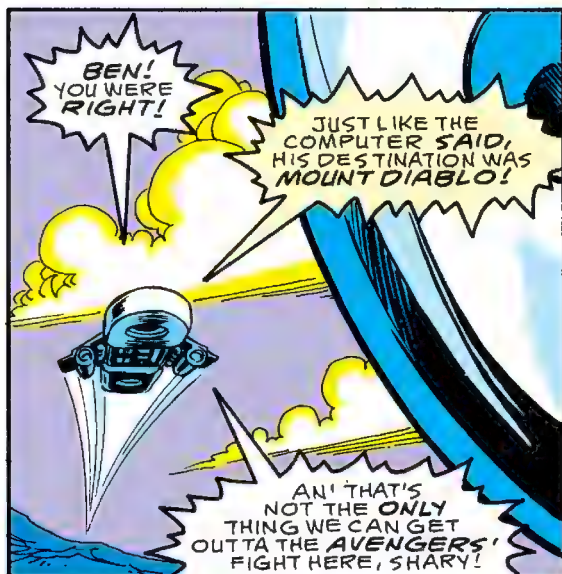


AND AS SUCH, I WILL NOT ATTACK THE DOOR DIRECTLY WITHOUT THE FULLEST CONSIDERATION!

I HATE TO TAKE ANY MORE TIME THAN NECESSARY, BUT I DARE NOT TAKE LESS--



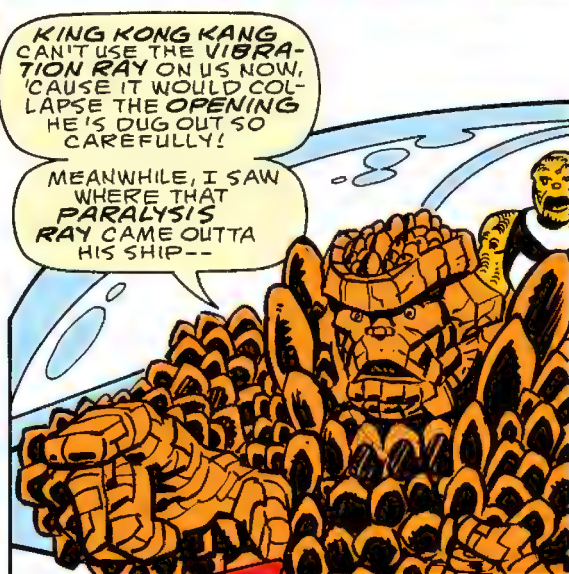
--AND AFTER ALL, NO ONE IN EITHER TIME OR SPACE KNOWS WHERE I AM, OR WHAT I'M ABOUT!



BEN! YOU WERE RIGHT!

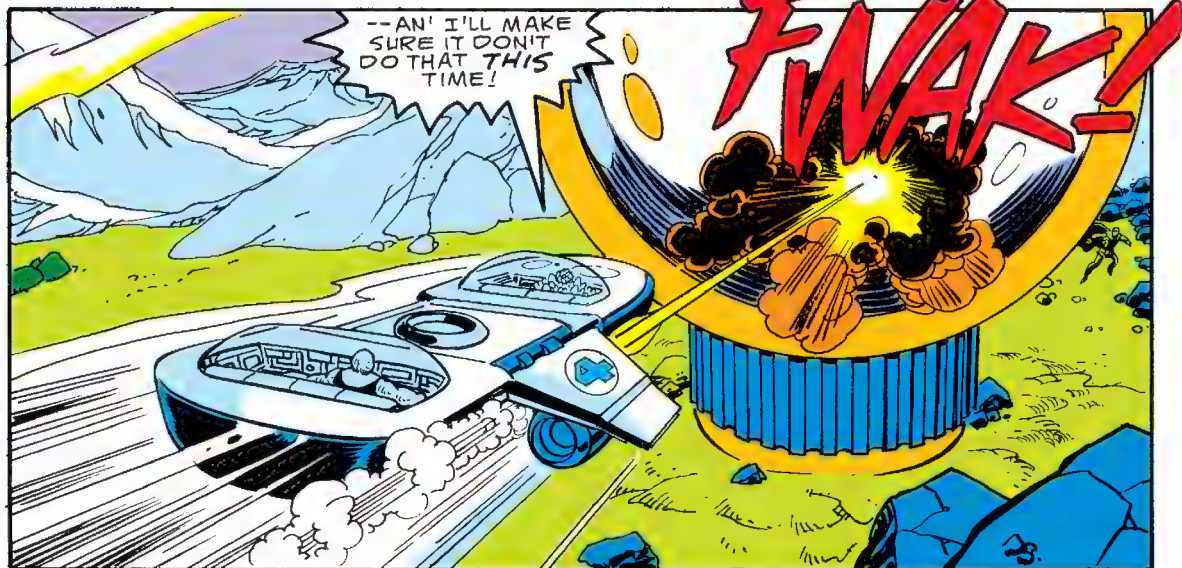
JUST LIKE THE COMPUTER SAID, HIS DESTINATION WAS MOUNT DIABLO!

AN! THAT'S NOT THE ONLY THING WE CAN GET OUTTA THE AVENGERS! FIGHT HERE, SHARY!



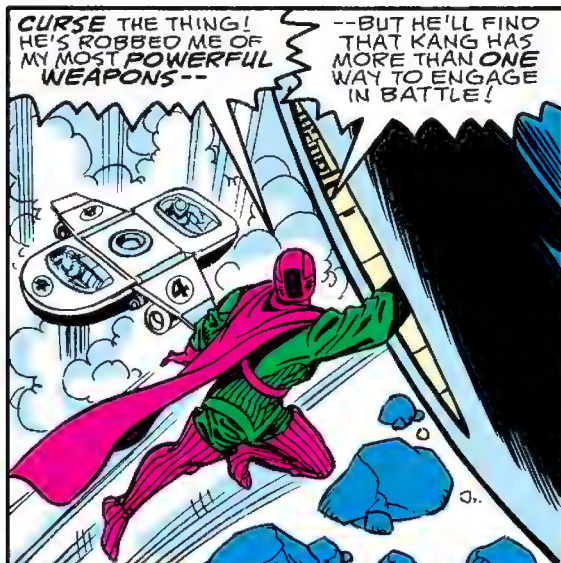
KING KONG KANG CAN'T USE THE VIBRATION RAY ON US NOW, 'CAUSE IT WOULD COLLAPSE THE OPENING HE'S DUG OUT SO CAREFULLY!

MEANWHILE, I SAW WHERE THAT PARALYSIS RAY CAME OUTTA HIS SHIP--



--AN! I'LL MAKE SURE IT DON'T DO THAT THIS TIME!

FWAK!



CURSE THE THING!
HE'S ROBBED ME OF
MY MOST POWERFUL
WEAPONS--

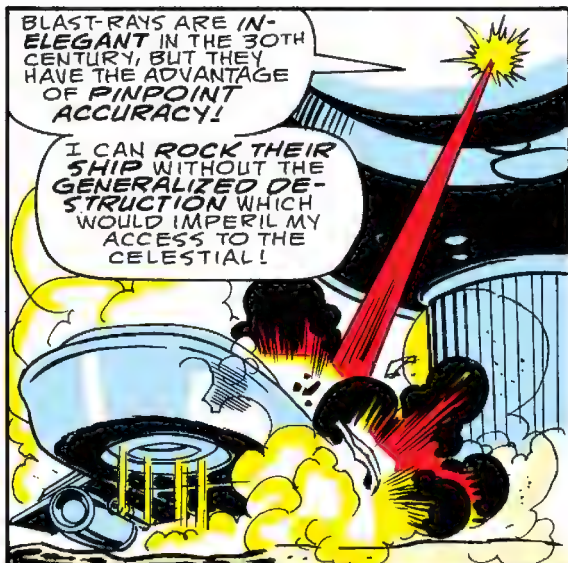
--BUT HE'LL FIND
THAT KANG HAS
MORE THAN ONE
WAY TO ENGAGE
IN BATTLE!



WE'VE GOT TO
SPLIT UP, BEN--

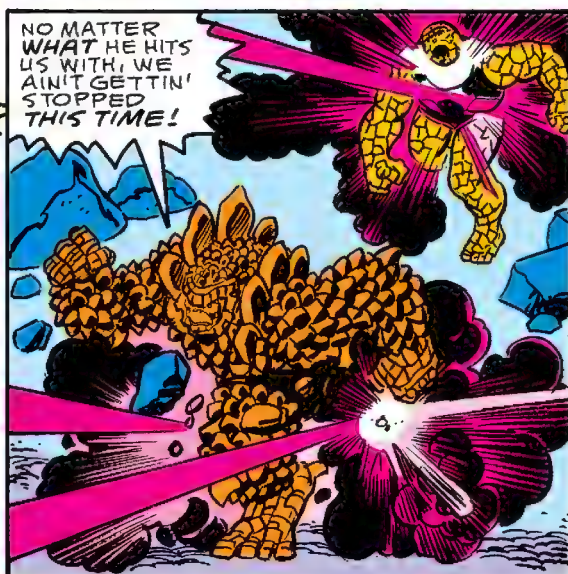
--GIVE HIM TWO
TARGETS INSTEAD
OF ONE!

I HEAR
YA, LADY!



BLAST-RAYS ARE IN-
ELEGANT IN THE 30TH
CENTURY, BUT THEY
HAVE THE ADVANTAGE
OF PINPOINT
ACCURACY!

I CAN ROCK THEIR
SHIP WITHOUT THE
GENERALIZED DE-
STRUCTION WHICH
WOULD IMPERIL MY
ACCESS TO THE
CELESTIAL!



NO MATTER
WHAT HE HITS
US WITH, WE
AIN'T GETTIN'
STOPPED
THIS TIME!

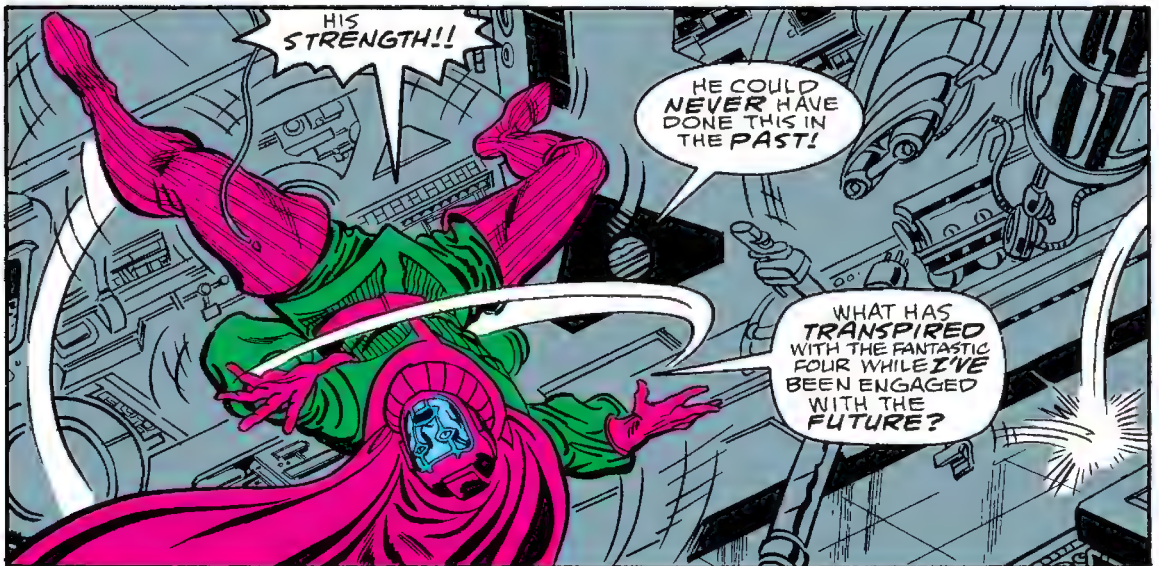
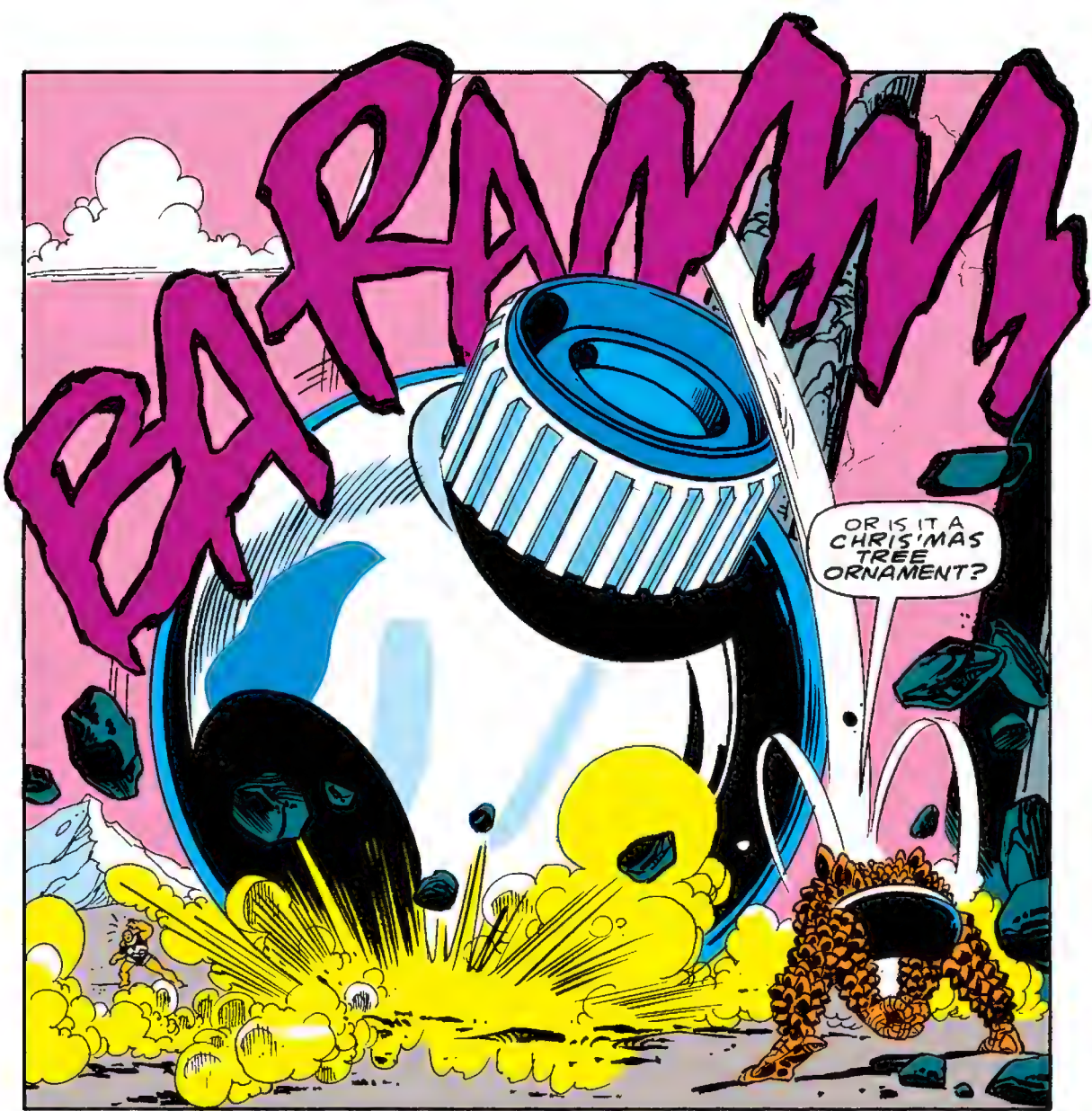


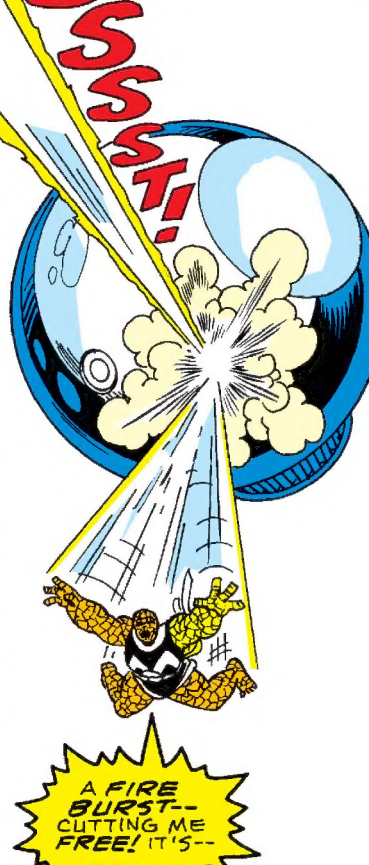
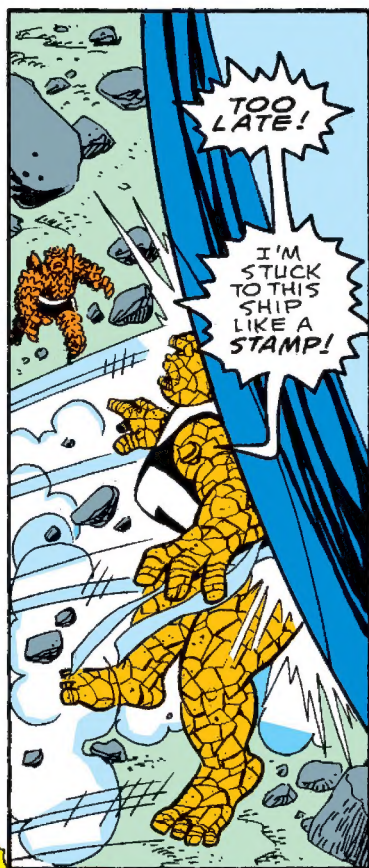
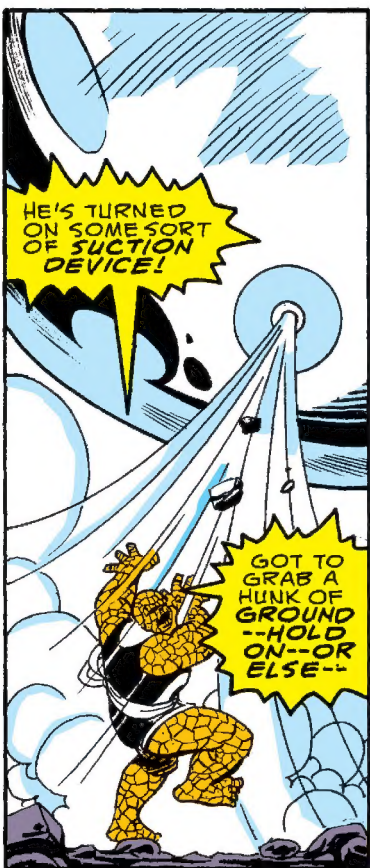
NOT TILL
WE GET OUR
HANDS ON--

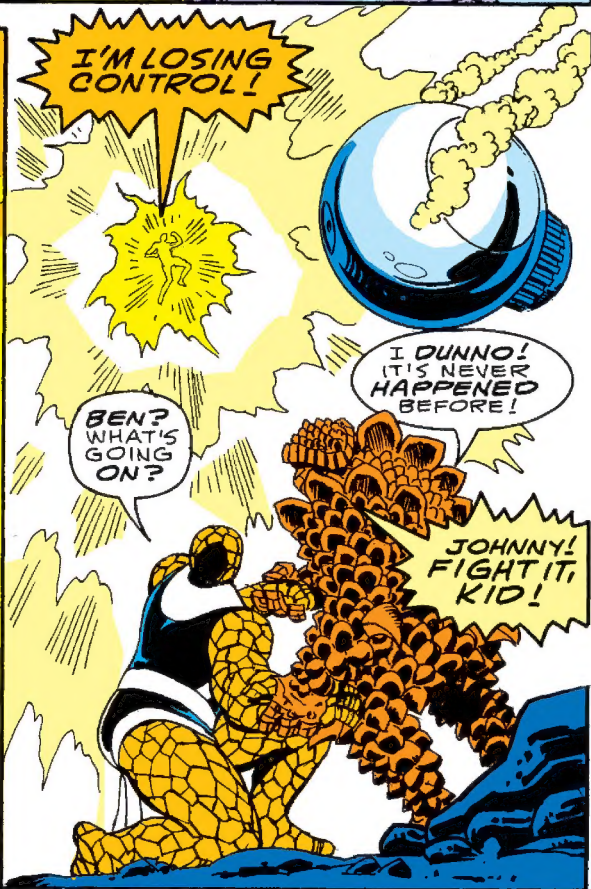
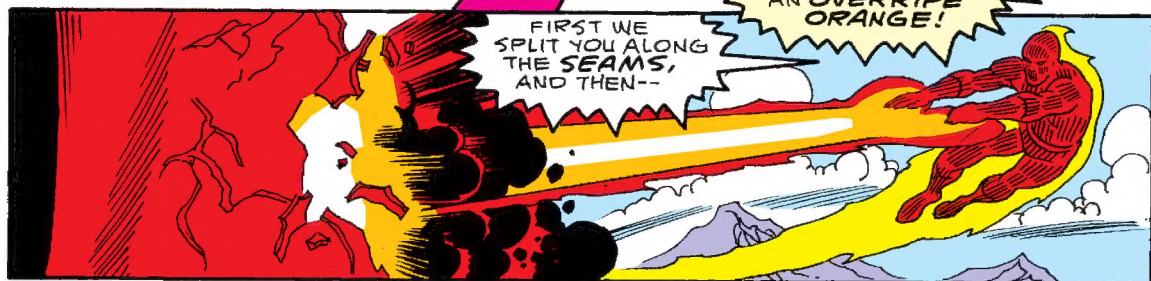
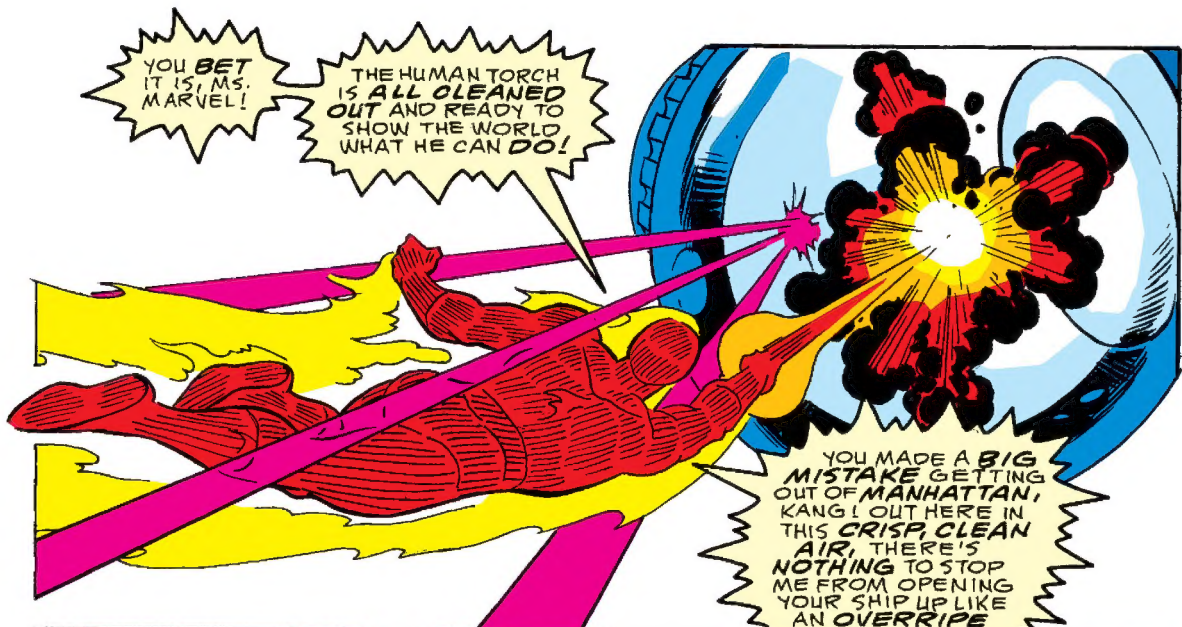
--UNNGHH!--

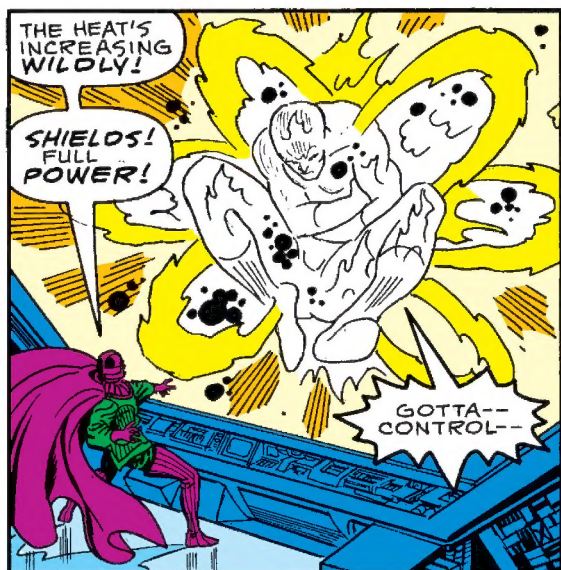


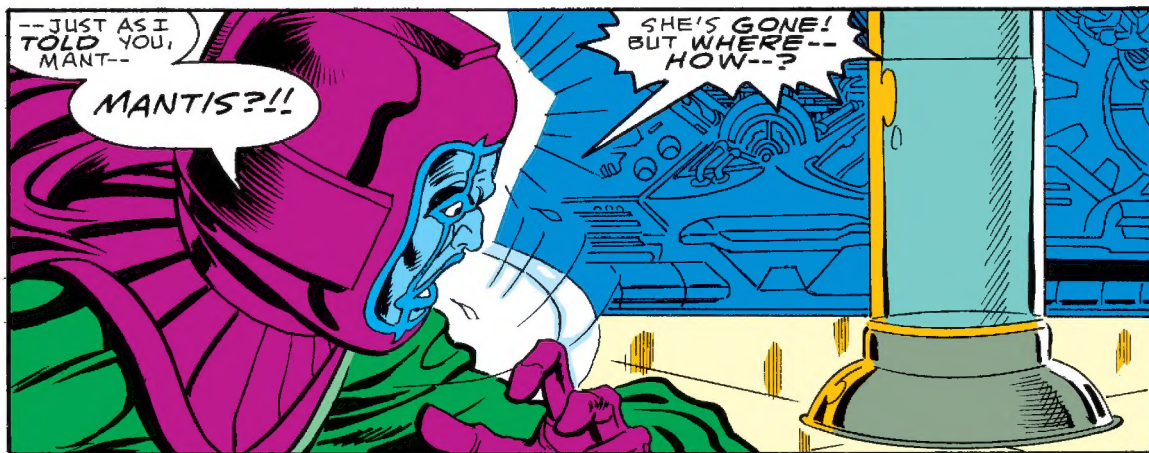
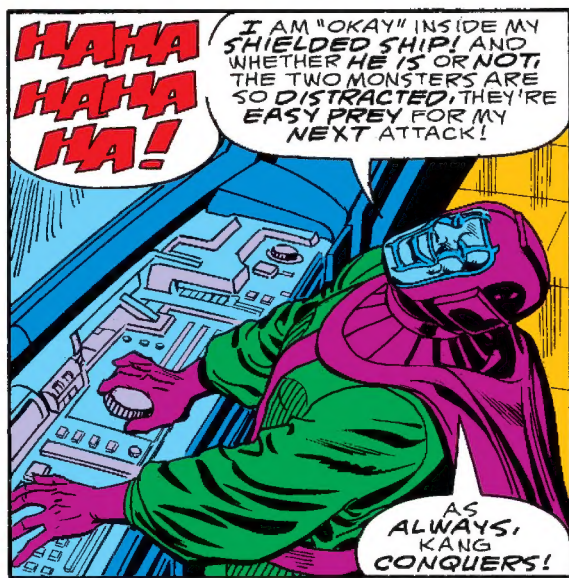
--ON HIS
OVERGROWN
LIGHTBULB!











REMEMBER THAT STRANGE APPARITION IN ARON'S ROOM, AND BEHIND THE TORCH? PONDER IT WELL UNTIL NEXT ISSUE WHEN ALL WILL BE REVEALED!

INFERNO PART III: **CELESTIAL SLAUGHTER!**